

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A system running in a central processing unit for changing the appearance and performance generated by a specified application, the system comprising:

a timer for measuring time; and

means, responsive to the timer, to change, after receipt of the specified application by the central processing unit, the appearance or performance generated by the specified application according to a timed procedure to encourage a user of the application to abandon this specified application and to purchase a new version of the specified application.

Claim 2 (Original): The system as in Claim 1, where changing of the appearance include one or more of the following:

change color, change contrast, change fonts, change intensity, change refresh rate, change content of pictures etc.

Claim 3 (Original): The system as in Claim 1, wherein changing of performance includes one or more of the following:

the brightness fades so that it is harder for the user to use the software tool as time progresses; the application window shrinks through time; the font degrades; features gradually drop out; display quality degrades; sound quality degrades; processing speed degrades; network bandwidth degrades; unpleasant visual and auditory stimulus is produced; and information degrades.

Claim 4 (Original): The system as in Claim 1 where changing in the program appearance leads to degradation of the view of the application.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The system as in Claim 1 where changes in performance leads to degradation of performance.

Claim 6 (Original): The system as in Claim 2 where colors, contrast and fonts are degraded.

Claim 7 (Original): The system as in Claim 1 where changes are adjusted to time and starts after some time limits.

Claim 8 (Original): The system as in Claim 7 where adjustment to time means gradual changes.

Claim 9 (Original): The system as in Claim 1 where this system is a part of the specified application.

Claim 10 (Original): The system as in Claim 1 where changes are obtained by manipulating drives in PC.

Claim 11 (Original): The system in claim 1 where users pay money or view advertisements to reduce or eliminate degradation.

Claim 12 (Original): The system in claim 11 where money is paid to any of: software manufacturer, seller, third party, or degradation service provider.

Claim 13 (Original): The system in claim 12 where the amount of degradation is related to the amount of money paid.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A method of operating a trial software application, said trial application being associated with a defined full application, said method comprising the steps of:

providing the trial application with a first set of instructions, embodied in the computer readable medium, for causing the computer to generate a main program; and

providing the trial application with a ~~subprogram~~ second set of instructions, embodied in the computer readable medium, for causing the computer to diminish, after receipt of the trial application by the computer, the performance of the main program over time and in

accordance with a timed procedure in order to encourage a user of the computer to purchase said defined full application.

Claim 15 (Original): A method according to Claim 14, wherein said subprogram begins to diminish the performance of the main program a defined period of time after the user begins to use the trial application.

Claim 16 (Original): A method according to Claim 15, wherein said subprogram gradually diminishes the performance of the main program over a given time starting at the end of said defined period of time.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A system for operating a trial software application on a computer, said trial application having a main program and being associated with a defined full application, said system comprising:

a timer for measuring time;

means for operating the main program to produce a defined performance;

means responsive to the timer for diminishing, after receipt of the trial application by the computer, the performance of the main program over time and in accordance with a timed procedure in order to encourage a user to purchase said defined full application.

Claim 18 (Original): A system according to Claim 17, wherein said means for diminishing included means to begin to diminish the performance of the main program a defined period of time after the user begins to use the trial application.

Claim 19 (Original): A system according to Claim 18, wherein said means for diminishing includes means to diminish gradually the performance of the main program over a given time starting at the end of said defined period of time.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for encouraging a user to purchase a full version software application related to a trial version, said method steps comprising:

providing the a user computer with the trial version;

allowing the user computer to use the full capacity of the trial version for a defined period of time to produce a defined performance;

after said defined period of time, after receipt of the trial version by the user computer diminishing the performance of the trial version in accordance with a timed procedure to encourage the user to purchase said full version.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A program storage device according to Claim 20, wherein the diminishing step includes the step of gradually diminishing the performance of the trail program over a given time starting at the end of said defined period of time.